



Dear Edmonston Residents,

As the summer is officially upon us, I wanted to take some time to update you on the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement's impact on our Town. Check out our website at www.edmonstonmd.gov to review a variety of information that may help you. The Town continues to follow the direction of Prince George's County regarding phasing in reopening. Unfortunately, Town Hall remains closed to the public. However, our staff is readily available to assist you in any manner possible by contacting them at 301-699-8806.

The Mayor's Office and the Police Department were responsible for distributing lunches to our needy residents through a partnership with Prince George's County District 5 County Council Member Jolene Ivey. The Capital Area Food Bank is currently supplying boxes of produce to distribute to our residents every Friday at Town Hall from 10 to noon on a first come-first serve basis. In addition, we have partnered with the Victory Grace Center to distribute additional food on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

We are successfully operating in the virtual world. The Mayor and Town Council have been conducting monthly council meetings via ZOOM. Residents are invited and encouraged to sign in and participate. We were proud to debut "Edmonston Talks" recently. It is a series of virtual Town Hall meetings conducted over the next 5 months that will feature experts addressing issues surrounding the pandemic and its effect on crime, business, financial, educational and life overall. Hosted by myself and guest moderators, the sessions will be live on Facebook and feature local, county and state experts in each of these areas. Listeners will have the opportunity to submit questions for the panelists. We will be offering our youth virtual distance learning later this summer.

While dealing with the pandemic is paramount to protect the health and safety of our residents, we also must discuss the recent "Black Lives Matter" movement going on across our nation. It is a moral obligation and commitment to address and protect the civil rights of underrepresented minorities in our community. We must take a stand against police brutality, racial profiling, and any form of excessive militarized police force. This commitment includes a mandate to promote and afford fair and equal treatment and services to all.

I have directed our Police Chief to review all policies within the Police Department to ensure that the actions of the Police Department support the Town's commitment to protect everyone's civil rights. I have also encouraged implementation of universal standards for our Police Department.

As Mayor, I have always stood up for all my constituents and I will continue to champion human rights. I am committed to ensuring that we have the proper policies in place that provide equality and fair treatment for our citizens. Therefore, I am requiring that Town leadership be held accountable when they do not meet these policies.

Chief Harris has implemented a new Right to Intervene General Order that requires both sworn and non-sworn agency members "to either stop, or attempt to stop, another employee when force is being inappropriately applied or is no longer required, is unethical, or that violates law or policy (e.g., excessive force, theft, fraud, inappropriate language, sexual misconduct, harassment, falsifying documents, inappropriate behavior, etc). He will soon be announcing the creation of a Police Citizen Advisory Committee that will initiate and foster greater communication and involvement between the citizens of Edmonston and our Police Department.

I am very proud to be a resident of Edmonston and so glad that we continue to work together to make our Town inclusive and open for all. Our response to Black Lives Matter will help bring about a cultural shift in our community as Edmonston leads the way in ensuring a greater quality of life for our residents.

Edmonston Strong

